

November 2007 New Orleans population growth may have begun to slow

Immediate Release

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New Orleans, LA. (January 15, 2008) – In November 2007, the population of New Orleans reached 70.5 percent of pre-Katrina levels, up from 49.5 percent in August 2006. But the rate of increase fell in recent months, suggesting that the population recovery may have begun to slow.

New Orleans households actively receiving mail increased by 1,061 from September to November. This was only 15 percent of the growth during the same period in 2006. The 6-parish metro area gained 1,903 households, representing 52 percent of the growth from September to November 2006. As of November, the 6-parish New Orleans region was home to 86.3 percent of its pre-storm number of households – up only 0.3 percentage points from September 2007.

Analyses of job growth, labor force growth, unemployment rates, and job vacancy rates in *The New Orleans Index*, suggest that low-wage workers are struggling to return to the region, and the lack of affordable housing, public transportation and childcare may be having a measurably negative effect on the rate of population recovery.

New Orleans Area Residences Actively Receiving Mail

	Orleans Parish		Jefferson Parish		St. Bernard Parish		St. Charles Parish	
July 2005	198,232	100%	187,612	100%	25,604	100%	14,847	100%
August 2006	98,141	49.5%	183,308	97.7%	na	na	15,160	102.1%
September 2006	102,244	51.6%	183,189	97.6%	na	na	15,167	102.2%
October 2006	108,048	54.5%	183,126	97.6%	6,736	26.3%	15,212	102.5%
November 2006	109,437	55.2%	183,099	97.6%	7,301	28.5%	15,207	102.4%
December 2006	116,276	58.7%	183,156	97.6%	6,807	26.6%	15,223	102.5%
January 2007	117,450	59.2%	183,199	97.6%	7,379	28.8%	15,292	103.0%
February 2007	119,438	60.3%	183,291	97.7%	7,838	30.6%	15,320	103.2%
March 2007	122,699	61.9%	183,810	98.0%	8,211	32.1%	15,393	103.7%
April 2007	126,441	63.8%	183,719	97.9%	8,511	33.2%	15,401	103.7%
May 2007	129,179	65.2%	184,150	98.2%	8,730	34.1%	15,420	103.9%
June 2007	130,796	66.0%	184,287	98.2%	9,204	35.9%	15,456	104.1%
July 2007	133,966	67.6%	184,354	98.3%	9,350	36.5%	15,480	104.3%
August 2007	137,082	69.2%	184,165	98.2%	10,098	39.4%	15,501	104.4%
September 2007	138,683	70.0%	184,206	98.2%	10,119	39.5%	15,480	104.3%
October 2007	138,364	69.8%	184,369	98.3%	10,421	40.7%	15,531	104.6%
November 2007	139,744	70.5%	184,377	98.3%	10,568	41.3%	15,539	104.7%

New Orleans Area Residences Actively Receiving Mail (cont'd)

	St. John Parish		St. Tammany Parish		6-parish area	
July 2005	14,555	100%	83,467	100%	524,317	100%
August 2006	14,979	102.9%	84,226	100.9%	406,690	77.6%
September 2006	14,975	102.9%	83,358	99.9%	410,324	78.3%
October 2006	15,045	103.4%	83,747	100.3%	411,914	78.6%
November 2006	15,110	103.8%	83,865	100.5%	414,019	79.0%
December 2006	15,126	103.9%	84,080	100.7%	420,668	80.2%
January 2007	15,202	104.4%	84,514	101.3%	423,036	80.7%
February 2007	15,205	104.5%	84,756	101.5%	425,848	81.2%
March 2007	15,290	105.0%	85,120	102.0%	430,523	82.1%
April 2007	15,311	105.2%	85,443	102.4%	434,826	82.9%
May 2007	15,321	105.3%	85,810	102.8%	438,610	83.7%
June 2007	15,368	105.6%	86,177	103.2%	441,288	84.2%
July 2007	15,398	105.8%	86,338	103.4%	444,886	84.9%
August 2007	15,408	105.9%	86,614	103.8%	448,868	85.6%
September 2007	15,525	106.7%	86,817	104.0%	450,830	86.0%
October 2007	15,451	106.2%	86,913	104.1%	451,049	86.0%
November 2007	15,470	106.3%	87,035	104.3%	452,733	86.3%

Source: USPS Delivery Statistics Product

Note: For more information on using U.S. Postal Service Delivery Statistics to track the repopulation of New Orleans and the Metropolitan Area, see www.gnocdc.org/reports/GNOCDC_research_note_May07.pdf

[In July 2005, the Census population estimates for each of these parishes were – Orleans: 452,170; Jefferson: 451,049; St. Bernard: 65,147; St. Charles: 50,554; St. John: 46,150; St Tammany: 219,814.]

These population indicators are tracked in *The New Orleans Index*, which is co-published by the Brookings Institution and the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center. To download the full report, go to www.gnocdc.org

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